**MINUTES OF TIREE COMMUNITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING**

**7pm 11 May 2022**

**By Zoom**

1. **Present**: Iona Campbell (chair), Phyl Meyer, Dr John Holliday and John Patience
2. **Welcome**: IC welcomed all to the meeting, and in particular our four new Argyll and Bute Councillors. The meeting was recorded for minute taking purposes.
3. **Apologies**: Jim Lynch, Willie Hume (who both hope to come to our AGM) and Andrew Kain
4. **Declarations of interest**: none made
5. **Tiree Transport Forum**: PM and JH gave a report on this meeting, which had taken place on 4 May with Tish MacKinnon and Phillip Knowles. The minutes will be put on the TCC website. The main points were:

* We hoped to broaden our membership to include the hauliers, crofters and representatives of the retail, crofting and construction sectors
* We will ask if the ‘Scholars Flights’ from Oban on a Friday could be extended to Tiree. The return flight might be quite popular for the general public
* The Saab aircraft that serve Tiree are reaching the end of their working lives. They are often used as back-up if the Twin Otters are out of service. We will write to the authorities to ask how their capacity will be replaced
* The north-south runway is still being maintained to prevent it deteriorating further, in case it is resurfaced in the future
* We will do some research into the zero-emission test flights in Orkney. It may be that Tiree-Coll-Oban flights may be suitable for this technology
* Tiree forfeited twelve flights in the winter during a Covid spike, and we will get those back in the summer
* The DVOR radio navigation system is to be replaced next summer. The Saab cannot use the upgraded equipment, and so there will be a period when the Saab cannot fly here
* The Mull and Iona Ferry Committee is consulting on an islander preference system based on one used on the island of Samsø in Denmark
* The Tiree Trust will work to disseminate the new road use leaflets through its new visitor centre, and will replace the sign on the side of the shops
* The next Coll Transport Forum meeting is on Friday 13 May. Donnie MacInnes and JH will attend
* The next TTF meeting will be in August

1. **New CalMac Terms and Conditions**: Don McKillop, Alan Hood and Blair Moglia attended from CalMac. Facemasks on board are still recommended but are no longer compulsory. It is hoped that next winter, the *Clansman* will come back to the Tiree run immediately after leaving dry dock, instead of covering the routes up north. AH said that he was bringing proposals for a 30-day consultation. He presented a short presentation:

* Demand went up a lot after RET was introduced. There are a lot of no-shows throughout the network, which makes the system inefficient and makes travel more difficult for other passengers. No-shows are rare on the Tiree sailing (only 2% of the total on the network)
* Currently there is a £10 cancellation levy, but there is no incentive to cancel in good time
* It is proposed that there will be a progressive cancellation charge, from 25% of the vehicle fare if cancelled 29 days or more in advance, to 100% if cancelled in the last 24hrs. CalMac would like to have a simple standard policy for the whole network
* It is proposed that you will be able to amend the time of travel with a £10 fee up to 48 hr before travel. Within 48hr, you will lose the fare
* Commercial customers will be involved in a separate consultation
* Some islanders double-book as a hedge against uncertain berthings
* Most Tiree hospital appointments are in Glasgow. Transport links in Oban are not good, so a car is almost always essential for mainland trips. AH said that CalMac provided a taxi service for emergency travel, although this was not widely known
* We wondered why CalMac was trying solve their ‘southern no-show problem’ by imposing new costs and complexities on the Tiree route
* We wondered if this system was going to apply in the winter, when the ferries were much less busy
* Under the current Transport Scotland contract, CalMac have to apply the T&Cs equally to everybody, and so can’t discriminate between island residents and visitors. This contract could be challenged in the future to give islanders priority
* The no-shows actually give capacity for emergency travel, and Tiree would not like to discourage them
* It might be possible to exempt Tiree and Coll from the new T&Cs
* RET has possibly outlived its usefulness. Before it was introduced, islanders could get a six-journey ticket for the price of five
* The proposed system does not seem fair: if CalMac cancels, islanders lose; if islanders cancel, islanders lose again
* There was a discussion about existing published T&Cs. There may be a discrepancy
* AH will send us the presentation, a background paper and a feedback form
* We decided to set up a Surveymonkey on this

1. **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**:

* We had held a successful hustings with about 30 people following live and 312 views on the streamed service
* We have had a letter from Louise Connor in the Education Department. Our application for Argyll and Bute Council to do an Island Community Impact Assessment on the proposed changes to Tiree High School has now been referred to the island Legal department
* Both bike stands have been installed by the two shops and have been getting some use
* Some volunteers have come forward for the community garden. We need to host a meeting soon to get some momentum
* We had heard from Highland Health Board that travel expenses for orthodontic treatment in Glasgow is now being paid, providing that the patient is under 16 or in full time education
* The minutes were proposed by PM and seconded by JH

1. **Correspondence**:

* We had had a letter about the state of the island’s roads. We understand that repairs are due to take place in the near future
* Denise Stacey from A&B Trading Standards will install call blockers to prevent scam calls to vulnerable people. Please contact us if you want to take advantage of this offer. We will put this on our website
* The Scottish Transport Minister will be visiting Coll and Tiree later this year
* We enquired about the land line at Tigh an Rudha, which was out of action for ten weeks. It is now working again

1. **Note on a meeting with West Highland Housing Association about the high heating costs at Pier View**: JH and JP had met John MacDonald from WHHA. They recognise that the houses at Pier View were of a mainland design and were not appropriate to their exposed location. They plan to put in air source heat pumps and insulate the houses. They had wanted to do this in the summer, but it may not be possible, because they are still waiting for the architects’ final recommendations. We will get copies of the reports. WHHA and ACHA hope to work together more in future.
2. **Streaming of community council meetings**: the hustings event was our first live streaming. Many more people (over 300) watched the meeting over the next week, and this increases our ‘reach’. The average viewing time was 8-10 minutes. Mull Community Council stream their meetings, as do Argyll and Bute Council. It was pointed out that the public might be dissuaded from taking part if it was streamed. We would need to warn the public who were thinking of contributing that we were streaming, and we could also hit the pause button if a member of the public did not want to be streamed. The Zoom chat does not get streamed. We decided that we would stream our next three meetings until the next community council election.
3. **AGM**: this will be in An Talla on 8 June as an in-person meeting.
4. **Co-option** **of community councillors**: we asked again for members of the public to come forward to serve on the community council for the next three months.
5. **AOCB**:

* JP gave a planning report. There were no applications that we needed to consider
* **PM will write to our retiring Argyll and Bute councillors**
* The Trust is holding a discussion day on Saturday 14 June

The meeting closed at 9pm

Dr John Holliday